SUPERMAN® VS. BOOSTER GOLD™
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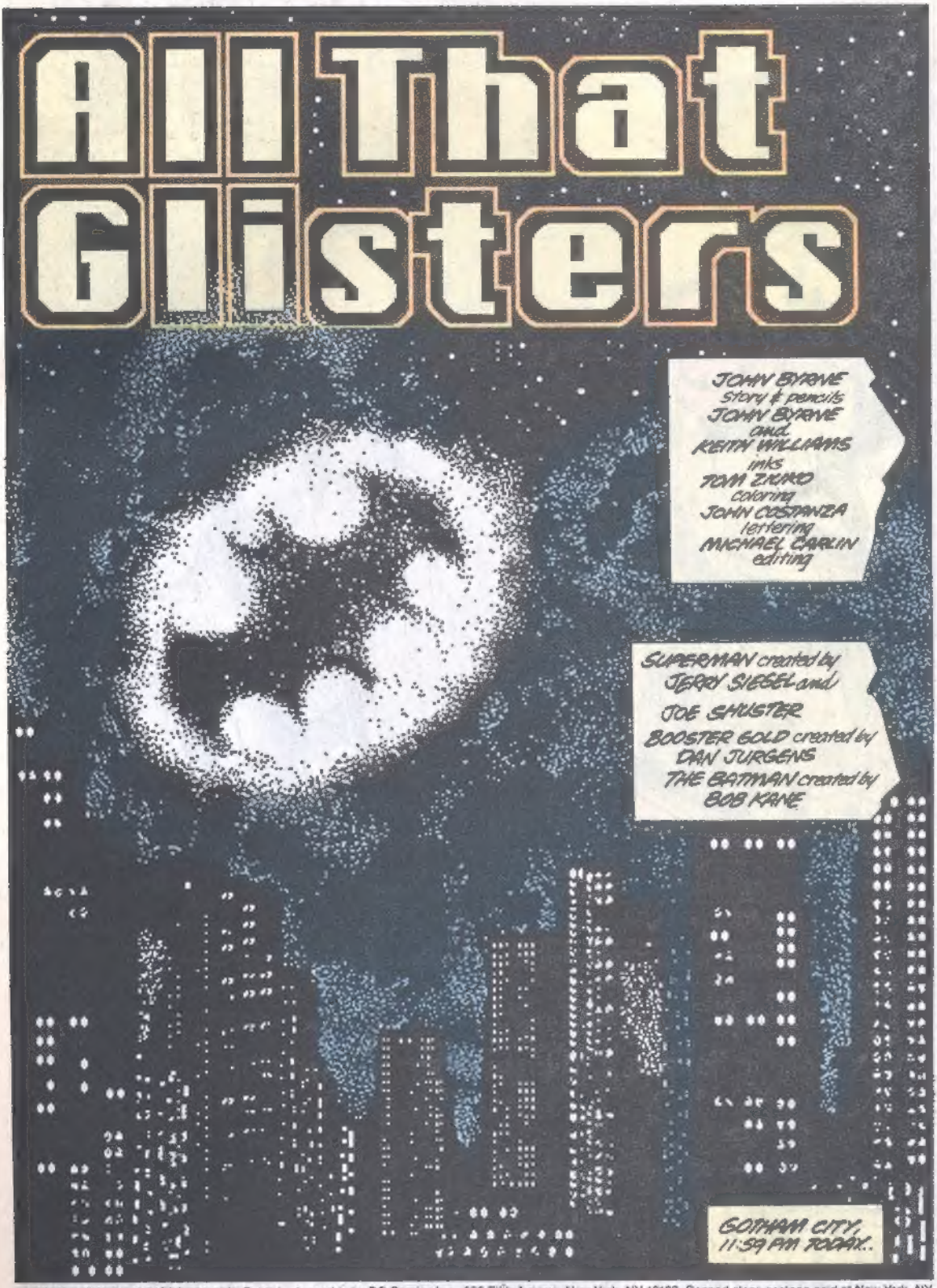
ACTION COMICS®
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BY JOHN BYRNE WITH KEITH WILLIAMS
THE MAN OF STEEL® -VS- THE MAN OF GOLD!
MILLENNIUM™
IS COMING
GUESS WHO'S WINNING THIS TIME?

All That Glisters



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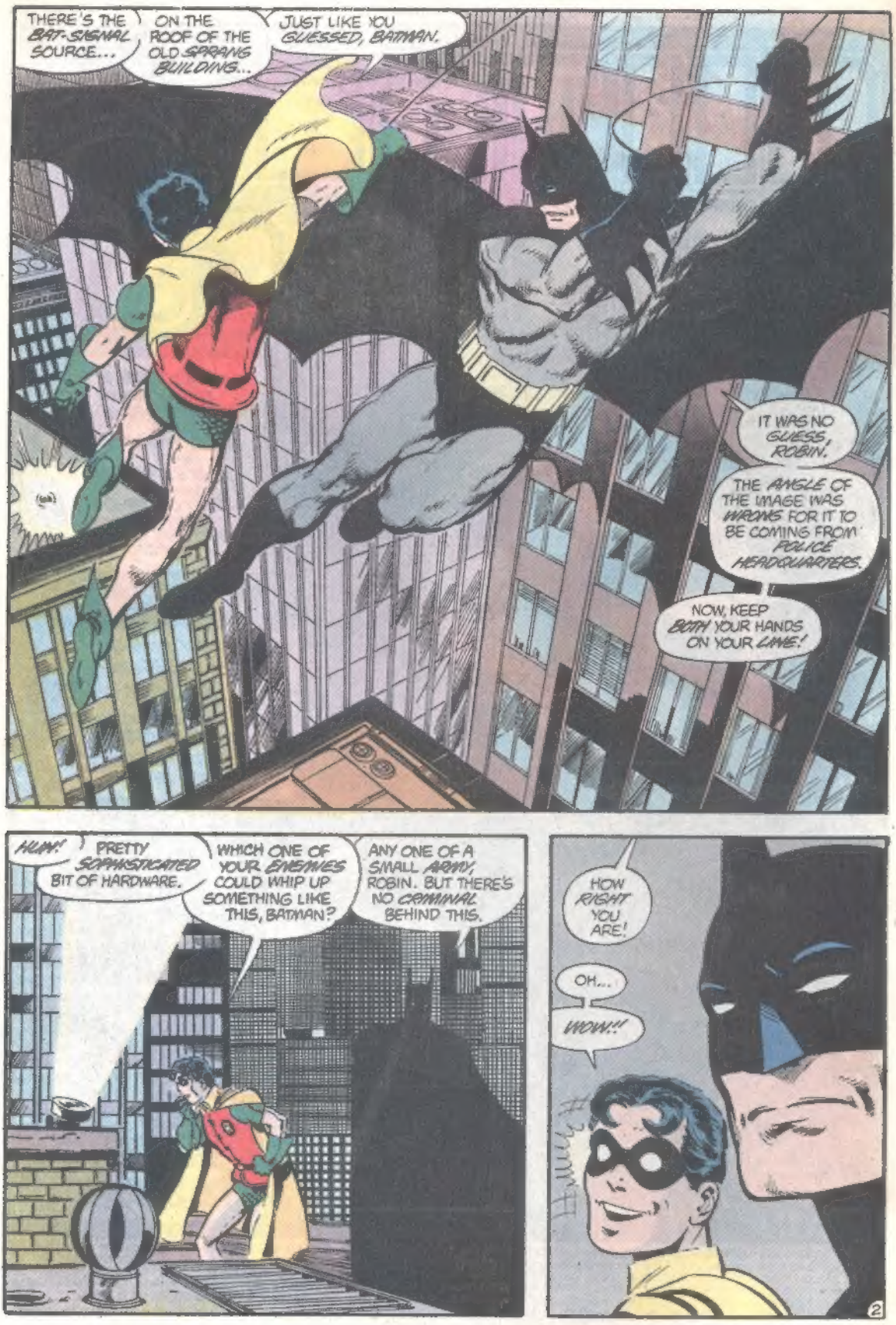
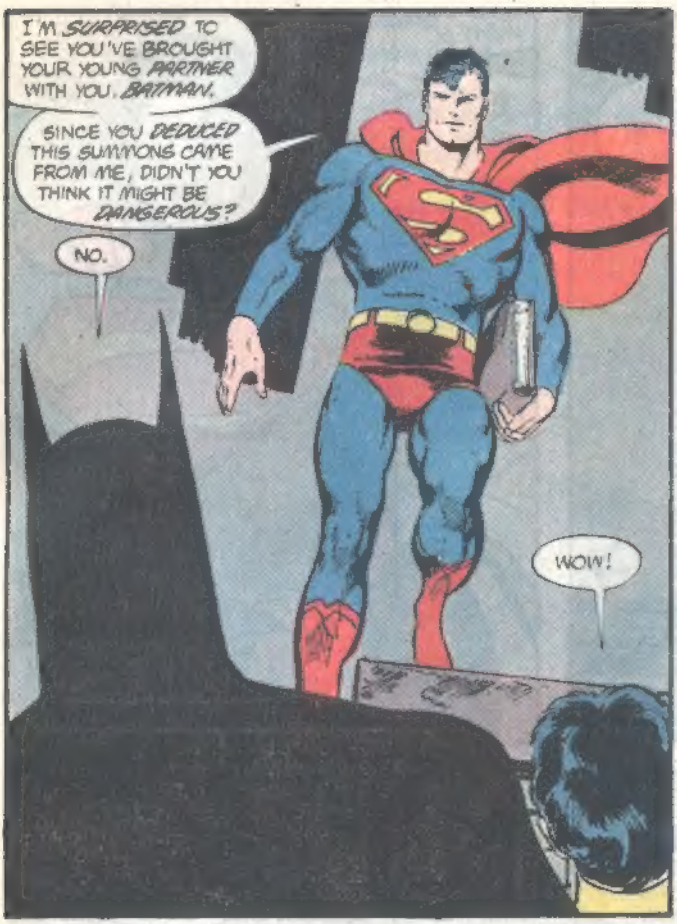
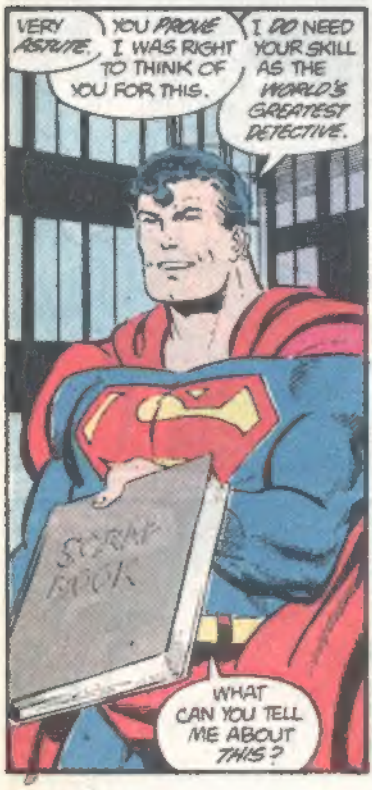

THERE'S THE BAT-SIGNAL SOURCE...
ON THE ROOF OF THE OLD SPRANG BUILDING...
JUST LIKE YOU GUESSED, BATMAN.
IT WAS NO GUESS, ROBIN.
THE ANGLE OF THE IMAGE WAS WRONG FOR IT TO BE COMING FROM POLICE HEADQUARTERS.
NOW, KEEP BOTH YOUR HANDS ON YOUR LAMP!
HUM!
PRETTY SOPHISTICATED BIT OF HARDWARE.
WHICH ONE OF YOUR ENEMIES COULD WHIP UP SOMETHING LIKE THIS, BATMAN?
ANY ONE OF A SMALL ARMY, ROBIN. BUT THERE'S NO CRIMINAL BEHIND THIS.
HOW RIGHT YOU ARE!
OH...
WOW!!
2

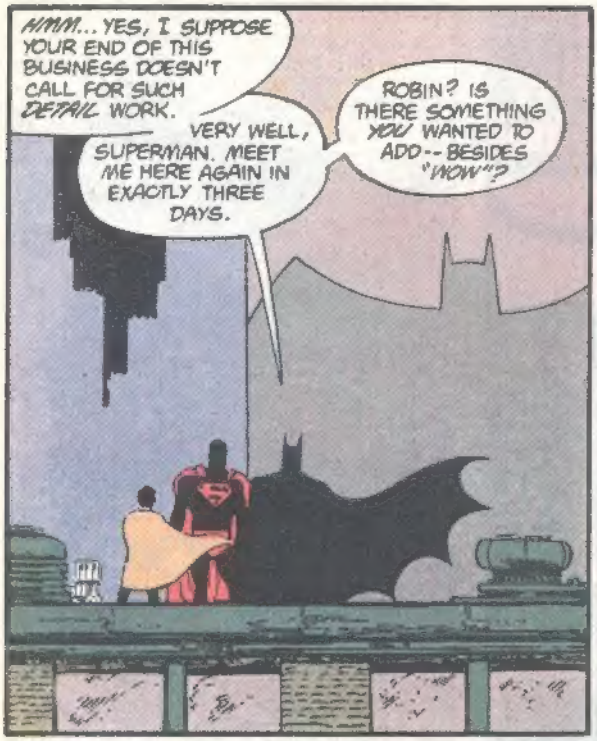

I'M SURPRISED TO SEE YOU'VE BROUGHT YOUR YOUNG PARTNER WITH YOU, BATMAN.
SINCE YOU DEDUCED THIS SUMMONS CAME FROM ME, DIDN'T YOU THINK IT MIGHT BE DANGEROUS?
NO.
WOW!

I RECENTLY CALLED ON YOU FOR HELP, SUPERMAN, WHEN I ENCOUNTERED A SITUATION BEYOND MY MORTAL ABILITIES.*
BUT I CAN'T IMAGINE A PROBLEM WHICH YOUR GREAT POWERS COULDN'T HANDLE...
UNLESS IT WAS ONE OF PURE DETECTIVE WORK.
HAVING MADE THAT DEDUCTION, I FELT ROBIN MIGHT ENJOY MEETING YOU...
WOW!
* ACTION ANNUAL #1


VERY ASTUTE.
YOU PROVE I WAS RIGHT TO THINK OF YOU FOR THIS.
I DO NEED YOUR SKILL AS THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE.
SCRAP BOOK
WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT THIS?

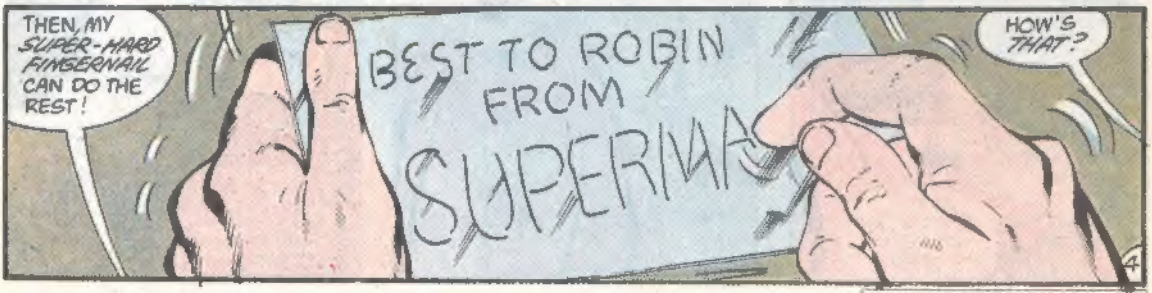
A SCRAP-BOOK?
AND CLIPPINGS ABOUT YOU.
UNEXCEPTIONAL PAPER STOCK. CONVENTIONAL BINDING. CLIPPINGS ABOUT AVERTED DISASTERS.
HMM...
WOW!

WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?
TRUE. I CAN SEE RIGHT DOWN TO THE MOLECULAR STRUCTURE OF THE THING.
WITH YOUR POWERS I'D THINK YOU COULD DO A FAR MORE DETAILED ANALYSIS THAN I CAN.
BUT AS FAR AS THINGS LIKE FINGERPRINTS ...PAPER STOCK...
I JUST DON'T HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE TO DECODE SUCH THINGS.


HMM... YES, I SUPPOSE YOUR END OF THIS BUSINESS DOESN'T CALL FOR SUCH DETAIL WORK.
VERY WELL, SUPERMAN. MEET ME HERE AGAIN IN EXACTLY THREE DAYS.
ROBIN? IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANTED TO ADD -- BESIDES "WOW"?

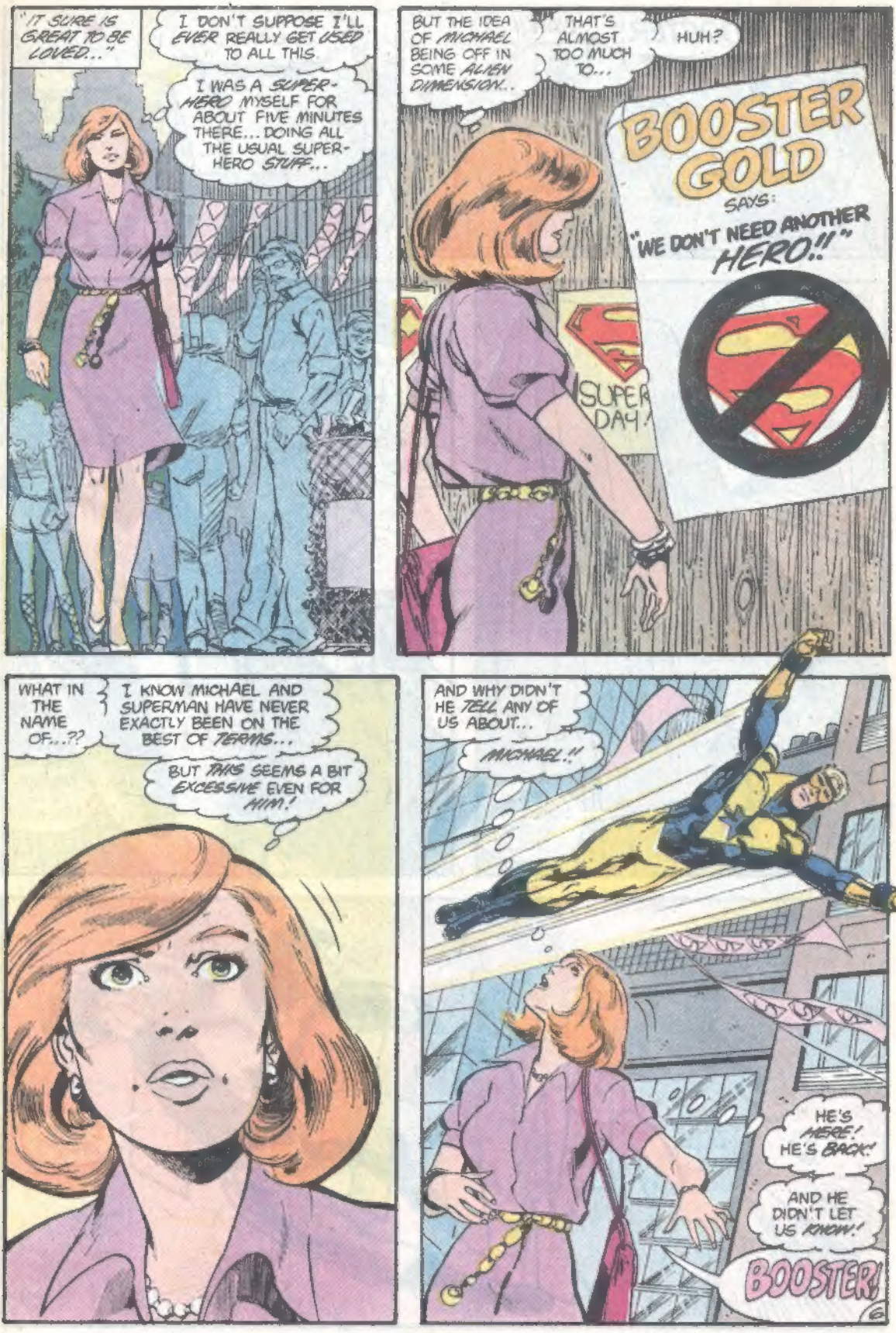
THE WORD "SUPERMAN" WRITTEN ON A PIECE OF PAPER WOULDN'T HAVE MUCH SIGNIFICANCE.
LET'S SEE IF WE CAN'T FIND SOMETHING MORE SUITABLE.
LIKE THIS PIECE OF TIN EDGING MATERIAL.

IT PROBABLY BLEW OFF ONE OF THE OLDER BUILDINGS AROUND THIS ROOFTOP.
WITH MY LASER-LIKE HEAT VISION I CAN TRIM IT TO A USABLE SIZE...

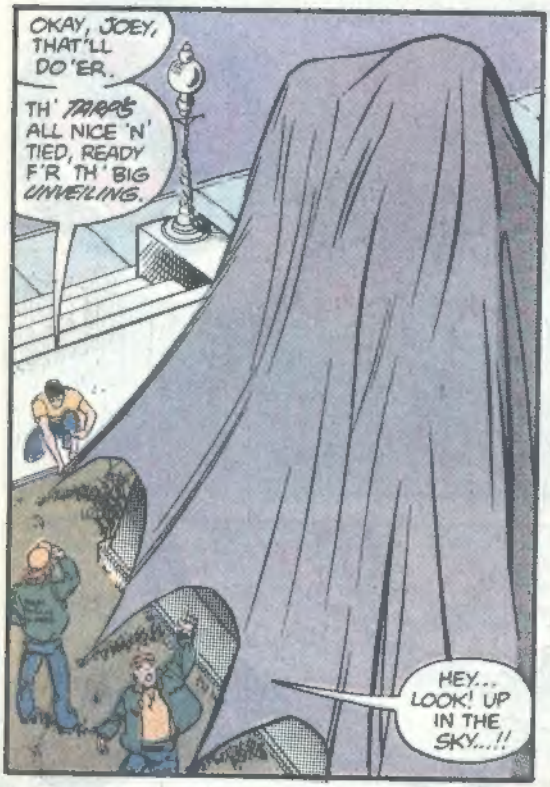


CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

WOW!
MY PLEASURE.
YES.
OH... AND I SUPPOSE CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER.
THANKS, SUPERMAN!
AND...THREE DAYS YOU SAID, BATMAN.
I HEAR TOMORROW--OR ACTUALLY TODAY--IS SUPERMAN DAY IN METROPOLIS.
YES. I TRIED TO TALK MAYOR BERKOWITZ OUT OF IT...
QUITE AN HONOR.
...BUT HE WASN'T ABOUT TO PASS ON THE CHANCE FOR SOME MEDIA-GRABBING HOOPLA!
SEE YOU IN THREE DAYS.
WELL... THANKS AGAIN, BATMAN.
FUNNY... THAT "CONGRATULATIONS" IS ABOUT THE WARMEST THING I'VE EVER HEARD OUT OF OUR DARK FRIEND.
I DIDN'T REALLY APPROVE WHEN I HEARD HE'D TAKEN ON A JUNIOR PARTNER, BUT NOW I'M NOT SO SURE.
ROBIN SEEMS TO HAVE HAD A...WELL, A HUMANIZING EFFECT ON THE BATMAN.
AND HE WAS RIGHT, TOO.
IT IS A TREMENDOUS HONOR TO HAVE A DAY DEDICATED TO ME BY THE PEOPLE OF MY ADOPTED HOME TOWN.
THE BATMAN WORKS AS WELL AS HE DOES IN GOTHAM CITY BECAUSE THE PEOPLE THERE TEND TO FEAR HIM.
BUT I GOTTA SAY...
5


"IT SURE IS GREAT TO BE LOVED..."
I DON'T SUPPOSE I'LL EVER REALLY GET USED TO ALL THIS.
I WAS A SUPER-HERO MYSELF FOR ABOUT FIVE MINUTES THERE... DOING ALL THE USUAL SUPER-HERO STUFF...
BUT THE IDEA OF MICHAEL BEING OFF IN SOME ALIEN DIMENSION..
THAT'S ALMOST TOO MUCH TO...
HUH?
BOOSTER GOLD
SAYS:
"WE DON'T NEED ANOTHER HERO!!"
SUPER DAY!
WHAT IN THE NAME OF...??
I KNOW MICHAEL AND SUPERMAN HAVE NEVER EXACTLY BEEN ON THE BEST OF TERMS...
BUT THIS SEEMS A BIT EXCESSIVE EVEN FOR HIM!
AND WHY DIDN'T HE TELL ANY OF US ABOUT...
MICHAEL!!
HE'S HERE! HE'S BACK!
AND HE DIDN'T LET US KNOW!
BOOSTER!

BOOSTER!!
WAIT!!
NO GOOD. HE'S IGNORING ME.
BUT... WHY? WHAT THE HECK HAS GOT INTO HIM??
BARK BARK BARK!!


OKAY, JOEY, THAT'LL DO 'ER.
TH' TARPS ALL NICE 'N' TIED, READY F'R TH' BIG UNVEILING.
HEY... LOOK! UP IN THE SKY...!!

HEY!!
YOU CAN'T...
WRONG, MY FRIEND.

BWAM
I JUST DID!!

PERRY...
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!
FAR FROM IT, LOIS. BOOSTER GOLD IS A SIGNIFICANT PART OF OUR METROPOLITAN LANDSCAPE.
NOBODY ON THIS PAPER COVERS THAT SCENE BETTER THAN YOU...
WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF CLARK KENT, AND HE'S VISITING HIS PARENTS IN OHIO.
KANSAS.
BUT... A PRESS CONFERENCE, PERRY?
I HAVEN'T BEEN TO A PRESS CONFERENCE IN A MILLION YEARS!
I KNOW. CONSIDER IT A BROADENING EXPERIENCE, LOIS.
INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM ISN'T ALL INTRIGUE AND CLOAK 'N' DAGGER STUFF
MAYBE NOT... BUT MY READERS EXPECT AN ADVENTURE WHEN THEY READ MY COLUMN.
NOT A QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION!
LOIS... JUST DO AS YOU'RE TOLD, WOULD YOU, PLEASE?
JUST FOR THE NOVELTY?
ALL RIGHT...
I'LL GO LISTEN TO WHAT OUR SELF-AGGRANDIZING GOLDEN BOY HAS TO SAY.
BUT IT BETTER BE GOOD!!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE PRESS...
THANK YOU FOR COMING. WE HAVE A MATTER OF GRAVE IMPORTANCE TO DISCUSS.
THE PROBLEM... SUPERMAN...
AND HIS CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY!
WHAT IN THE NAME OF...??
SEVERAL WEEKS AGO SUPERMAN TOOK IT UPON HIMSELF TO IGNORE THE LAWS OF THIS COUNTRY BY INVADING A FOREIGN LAND...
QURAC.*
TRUE, QURAC WAS EXPORTING TERRORISM, BUT DOES SUPERMAN, A MERE PRIVATE CITIZEN, HAVE THE RIGHT TO JEOPARDIZE THIS COUNTRY BY WAGING WAR ON ANOTHER NATION?
DOES THE MAN DARE IMAGINE HIMSELF A GOD?
WHY OF ALL THE TWO-BIT, HIGH-HANDED, SELF-INFLATING...
SUPERMAN MUST ANSWER FOR HIS CRIME!
YOU MUST DEMAND AN EXPLANATION OF HIS BETRAYAL! NO SUPERHERO CAN BE ALLOWED TO BEHAVE THAT WAY!
MAYBE NOT...
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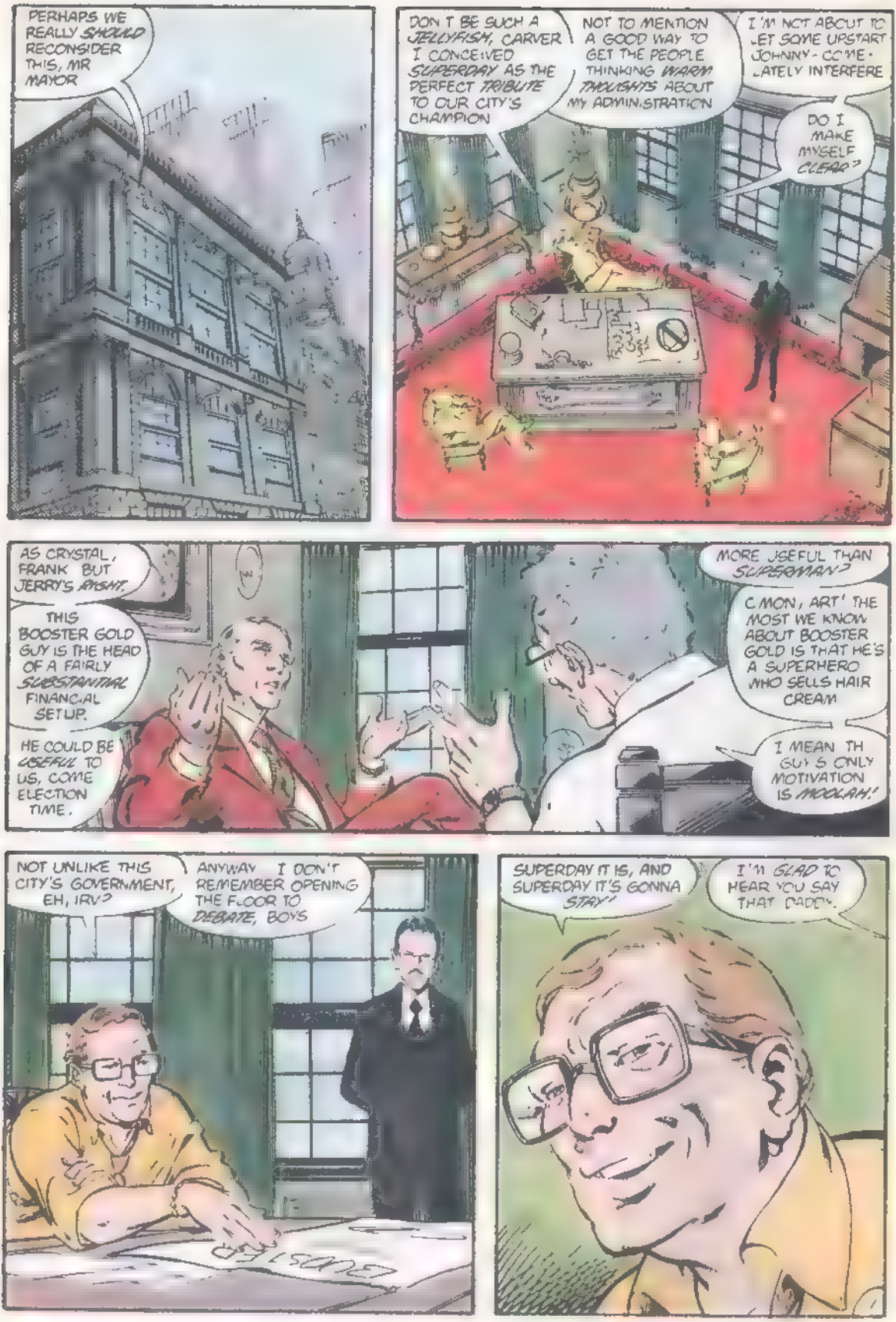
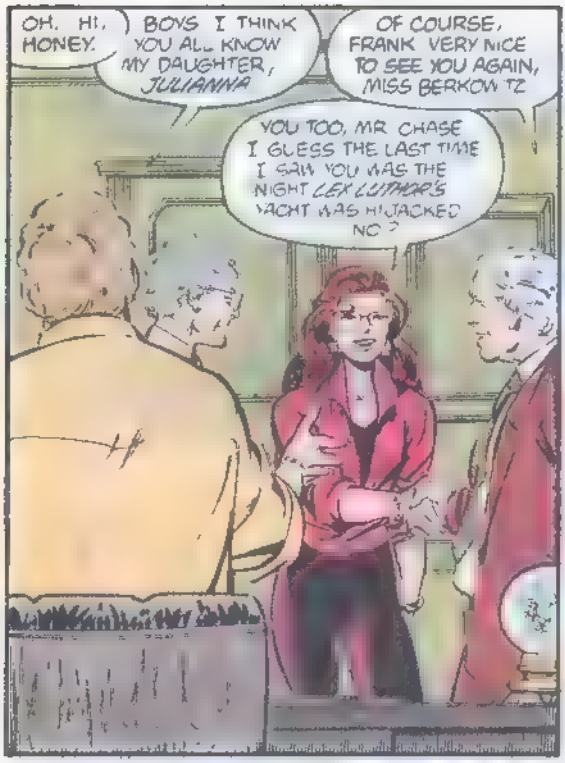
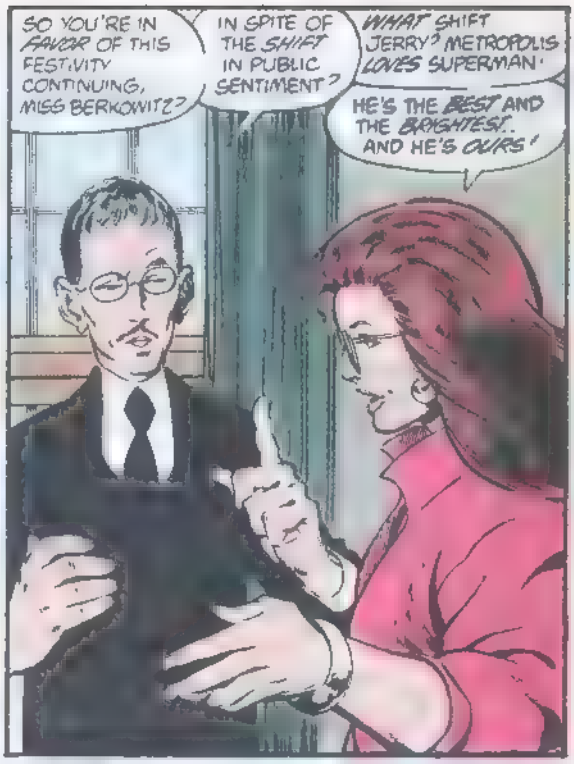
*Adventures of Superman #427

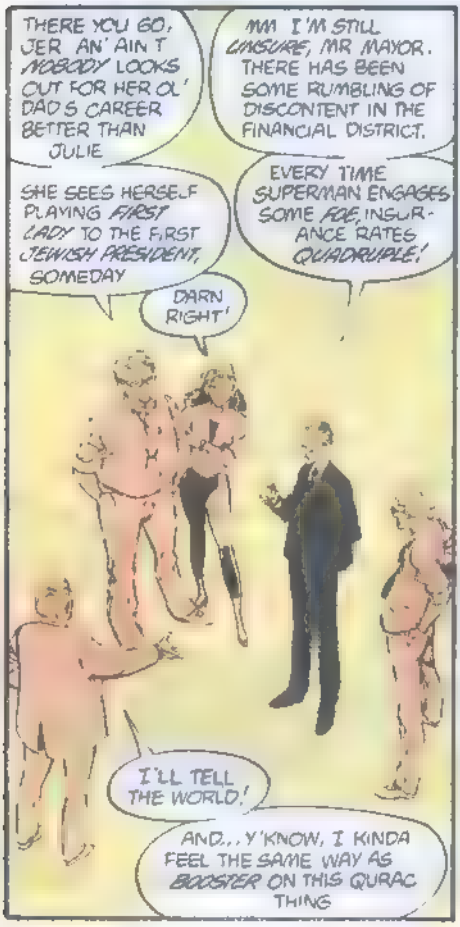
CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE FOLLOWING

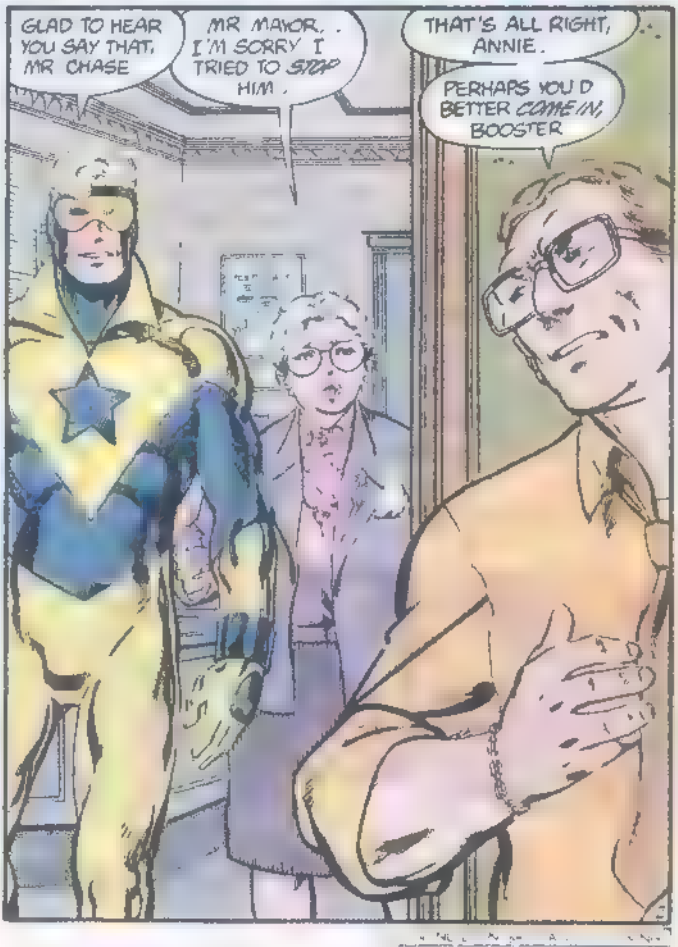
BUT THAT'S PRETTY BIG TALK FROM SOMEBODY WHO EXPECTS TO GET PAID FOR HIS SERVICES
WHATEVER SUPERMAN DOES, HE DOES OUT OF PURE ALTRUISM!
OF COURSE YOU WOULD BE EXPECTED TO SAY THAT, MISS LANE
YOU ARE, AFTER ALL, KNOWN IN THIS CITY AS "SUPERMAN'S GIRLFRIEND"
THAT HAPPENS TO BE A HIGHLY MIS-LEADING TITLE PINNED ON ME BY ONE OF THE DAILY PLANET'S GOSSIPS
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH WHAT I JUST SAID...
WHICH I STAND BY
MMM WELL THE DAILY PLANET ISN'T EXACTLY IMPARTIAL IN THIS MATTER, EITHER
YOUR MANAGING EDITOR, MR WHITE, WROTE A FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL ENDORSING SUPERMAN'S ACTIONS AGAINST QURAC
Daily
THE SPIRIT
AMERICA LI
IN SUPERMA
AND THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION SAID THEY WERE PREPARED TO BACK SUPERMAN, IF NECESSARY
SOME MIGHTY HIGH-PLACED FOLK WOULD SEEM TO BE IN DIS-AGREEMENT WITH YOUR POSITION, MR. GOLD.
THEN IT IS HIGH TIME THEY LEARNED THE ERROR OF THEIR THINKING, MISS LANE
METROPOLIS HAS BEEN TOO QUICK TO ACCEPT SUPERMAN AT FACE VALUE
BY THE TIME I'M FINISHED, IF HE HAS ANY FACE LEFT, ITS VALUE SHOULD BE ABOUT ZERO!!


PERHAPS WE REALLY SHOULD RECONSIDER THIS, MR MAYOR
DON'T BE SUCH A JELLYFISH, CARVER I CONCEIVED SUPERDAY AS THE PERFECT TRIBUTE TO OUR CITY'S CHAMPION
NOT TO MENTION A GOOD WAY TO GET THE PEOPLE THINKING WARM THOUGHTS ABOUT MY ADMINISTRATION
I'M NOT ABOUT TO LET SOME UPSTART JOHNNY-COME-LATELY INTERFERE
DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?
AS CRYSTAL, FRANK BUT JERRY'S AYSHT.
THIS BOOSTER GOLD GUY IS THE HEAD OF A FAIRLY SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL SETUP.
HE COULD BE USEFUL TO US, COME ELECTION TIME.
MORE USEFUL THAN SUPERMAN?
C'MON, ART! THE MOST WE KNOW ABOUT BOOSTER GOLD IS THAT HE'S A SUPERHERO WHO SELLS HAIR CREAM
I MEAN TH GUY'S ONLY MOTIVATION IS MOOLAH!
NOT UNLIKE THIS CITY'S GOVERNMENT, EH, IRV?
ANYWAY I DON'T REMEMBER OPENING THE FLOOR TO DEBATE, BOYS
SUPERDAY IT IS, AND SUPERDAY IT'S GONNA STAY!
I'M GLAD TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT DADDY.

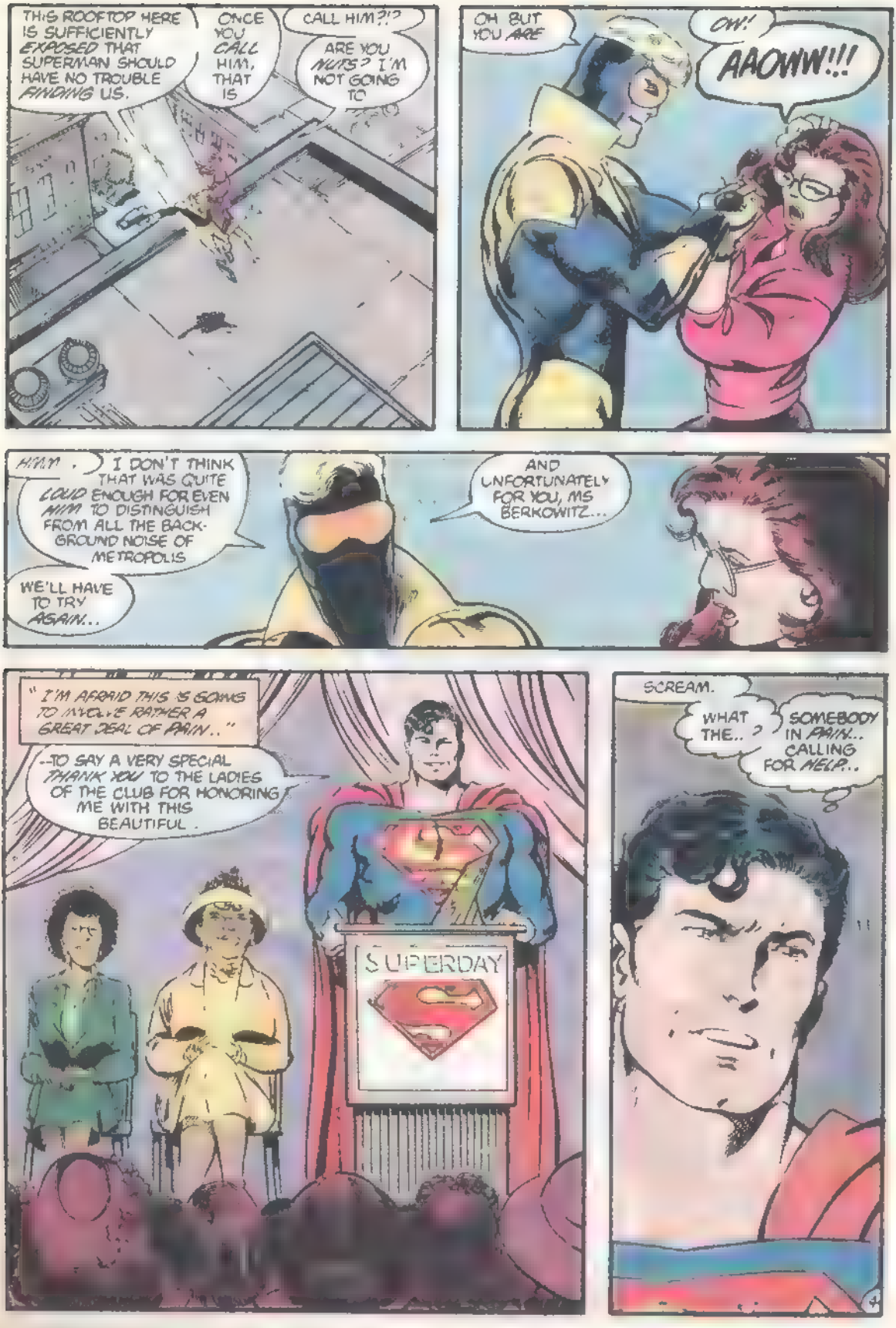

OH. HI, HONEY.
BOYS I THINK YOU ALL KNOW MY DAUGHTER, JULIANNA
OF COURSE, FRANK VERY NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN, MISS BERKOWITZ
YOU TOO, MR CHASE I GUESS THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU WAS THE NIGHT LEX LUTHOR'S YACHT WAS HIJACKED NO?

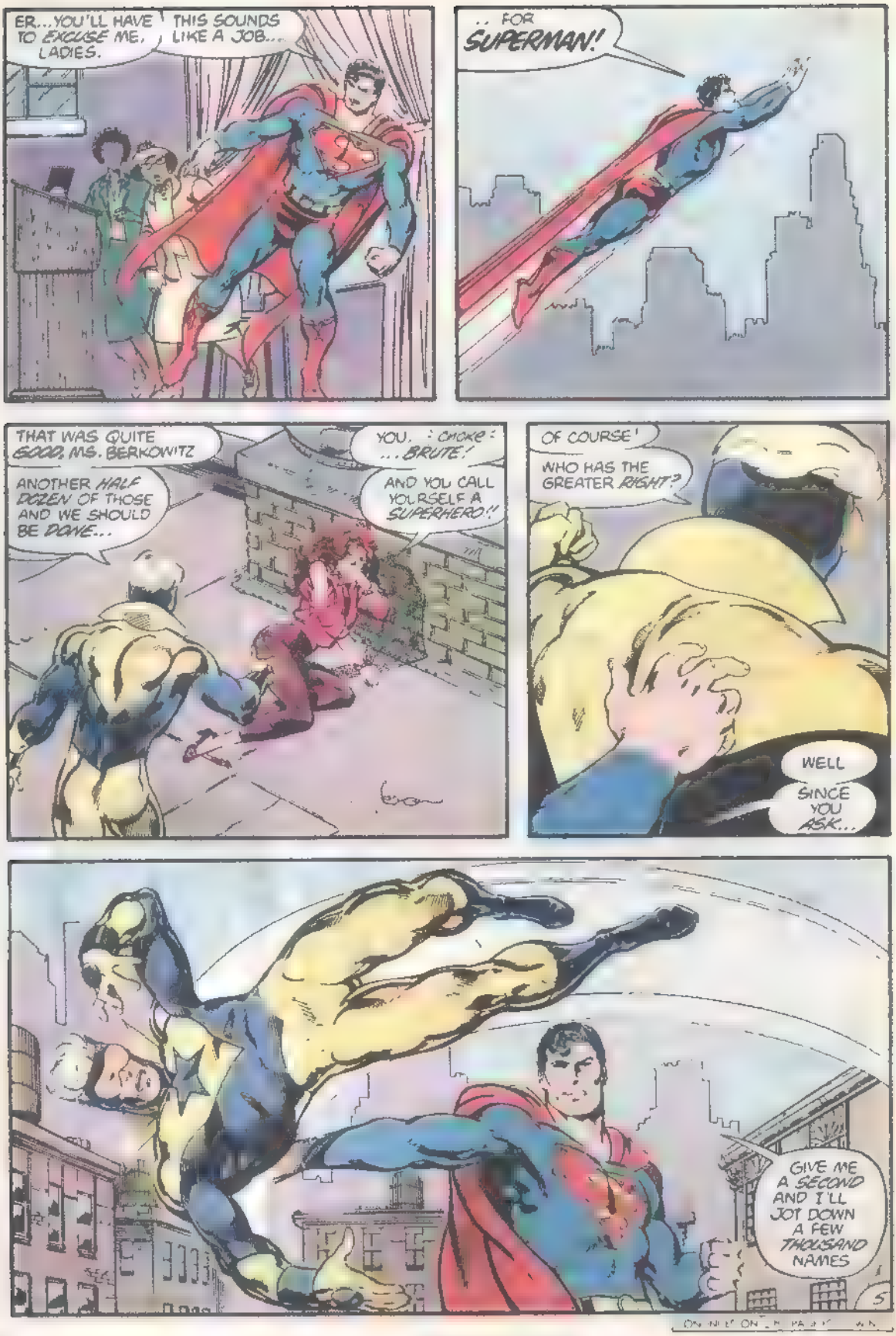

SO YOU'RE IN FAVOR OF THIS FESTIVITY CONTINUING, MISS BERKOWITZ?
IN SPITE OF THE SHIFT IN PUBLIC SENTIMENT?
WHAT SHIFT JERRY? METROPOLIS LOVES SUPERMAN!
HE'S THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST.. AND HE'S OURS!

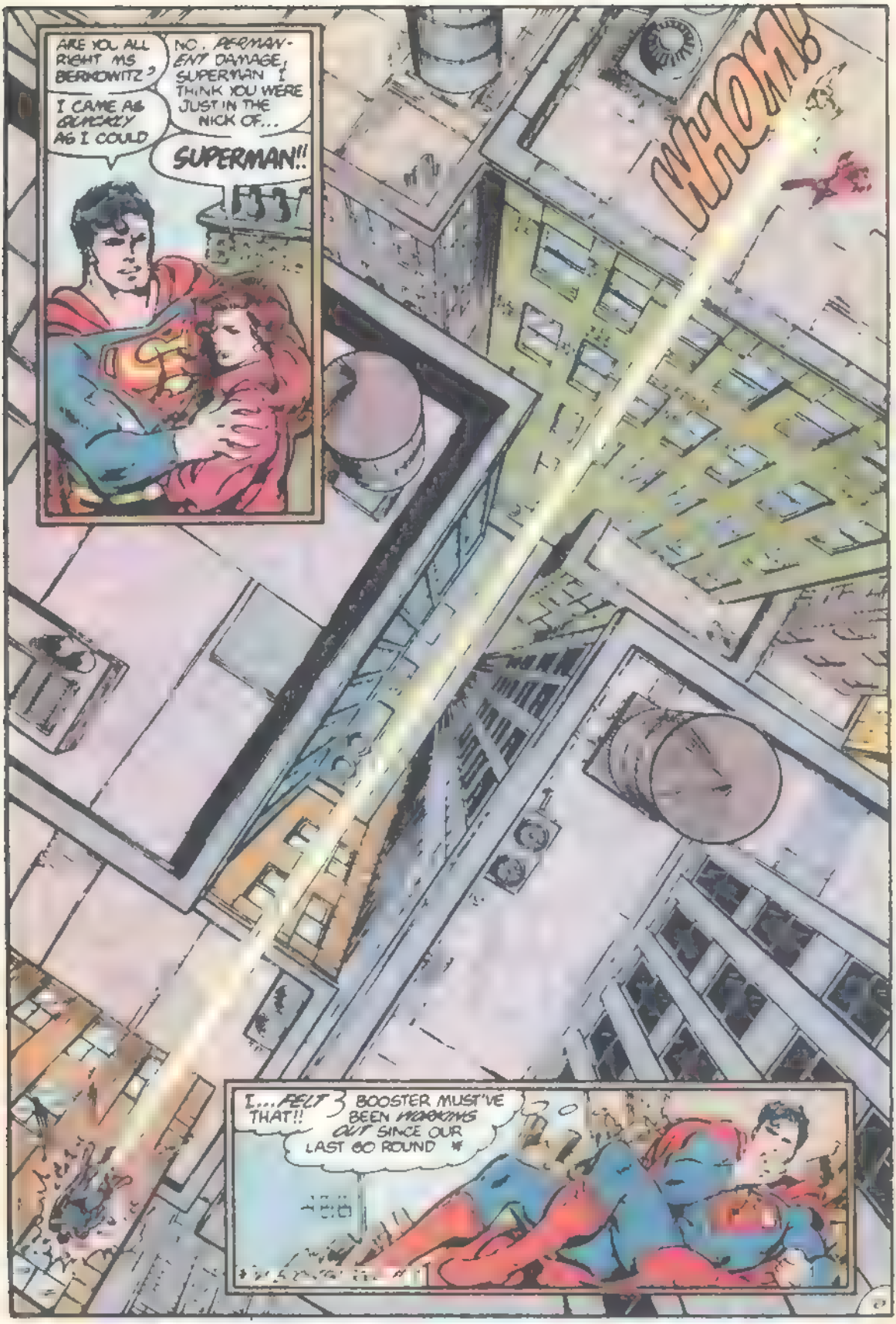

THERE YOU GO, JER AN' AIN'T NOBODY LOOKS OUT FOR HER OL' DAD'S CAREER BETTER THAN JULIE
MM I'M STILL UNSURE, MR MAYOR. THERE HAS BEEN SOME RUMBLING OF DISCONTENT IN THE FINANCIAL DISTRICT.
SHE SEES HERSELF PLAYING FIRST LADY TO THE FIRST JEWISH PRESIDENT, SOMEDAY
EVERY TIME SUPERMAN ENGAGES SOME FOE, INSURANCE RATES QUADRUPLE!
DARN RIGHT!
I'LL TELL THE WORLD!
AND... Y'KNOW, I KINDA FEEL THE SAME WAY AS BOOSTER ON THIS QURAC THING


GLAD TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT, MR CHASE
MR MAYOR.. I'M SORRY I TRIED TO STOP HIM.
THAT'S ALL RIGHT, ANNIE.
PERHAPS YOU'D BETTER COME IN, BOOSTER

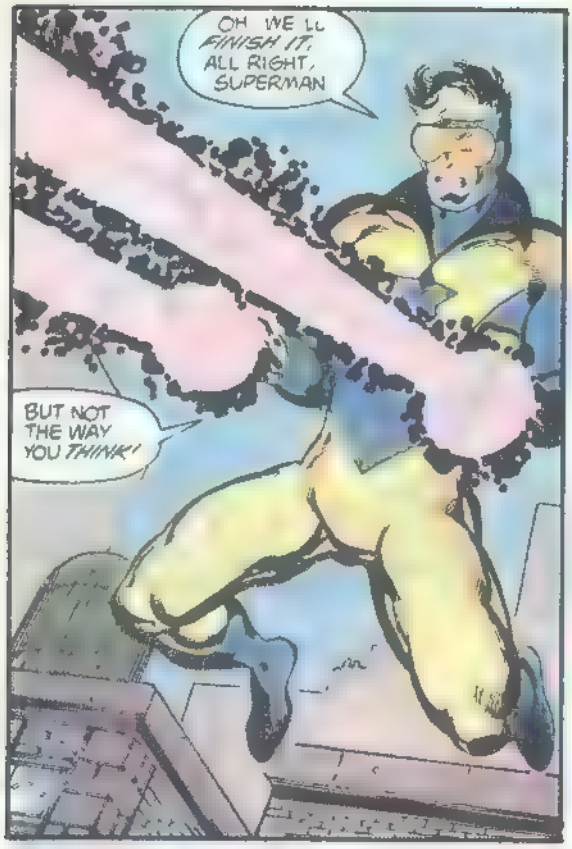
NOW THEN...
START EXPLAINING YOURSELF, MISTER! SUPERMAN HAS THE FULL SUPPORT OF MY ADMINISTRATION.
WHERE DO YOU GET OFF MAKING WAVES?
MR MAYOR...
I'VE MADE MY POSITION QUITE CLEAR, I THINK.
I BELIEVE SUPERMAN TO BE A MENACE AND -- WHAT MAY BE WORSE FOR A SO-CALLED SUPERHERO -- A HYPOCRITE!
I'M GOING TO LURE SUPERMAN OUT INTO THE OPEN!
AND THE BEST WAY I KNOW TO ACCOMPLISH THAT..
BWAM!
.. IS WITH THE UNWILLING AID OF A DAMSEL IN DISTRESS!
SUCH AS YOU, MS BERKOWITZ!
HEY!!
NNOO!!
3


THIS ROOFTOP HERE IS SUFFICIENTLY EXPOSED THAT SUPERMAN SHOULD HAVE NO TROUBLE FINDING US.
ONCE YOU CALL HIM, THAT IS
CALL HIM?!?
ARE YOU NUTS? I'M NOT GOING TO
OH BUT YOU ARE
OW!
AAOWW!!!
HMM.
I DON'T THINK THAT WAS QUITE LOUD ENOUGH FOR EVEN HIM TO DISTINGUISH FROM ALL THE BACK-GROUND NOISE OF METROPOLIS
WE'LL HAVE TO TRY AGAIN...
AND UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU, MS BERKOWITZ...
" I'M AFRAID THIS IS GOING TO INVOLVE RATHER A GREAT DEAL OF PAIN.. "
--TO SAY A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE LADIES OF THE CLUB FOR HONORING ME WITH THIS BEAUTIFUL .
SUPERDAY
SCREAM.
WHAT THE.. ?
SOMEBODY IN PAIN.. CALLING FOR HELP..

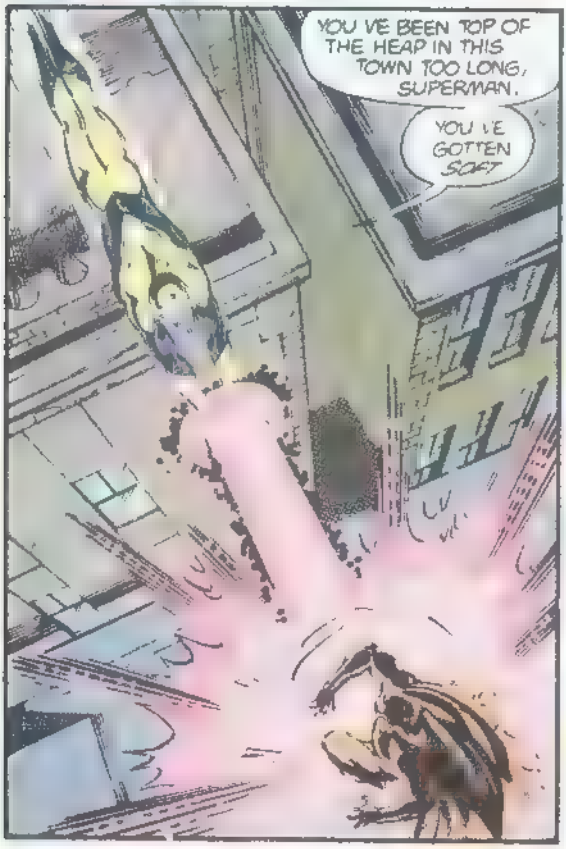

ER...YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE ME, LADIES.
THIS SOUNDS LIKE A JOB...
...FOR SUPERMAN!
THAT WAS QUITE GOOD, MS. BERKOWITZ
ANOTHER HALF DOZEN OF THOSE AND WE SHOULD BE DONE...
YOU. :CHOKE: ...BRUTE!
AND YOU CALL YOURSELF A SUPERHERO!!
OF COURSE!
WHO HAS THE GREATER RIGHT?
WELL
SINCE YOU ASK...
GIVE ME A SECOND AND I'LL JOT DOWN A FEW THOUSAND NAMES
5

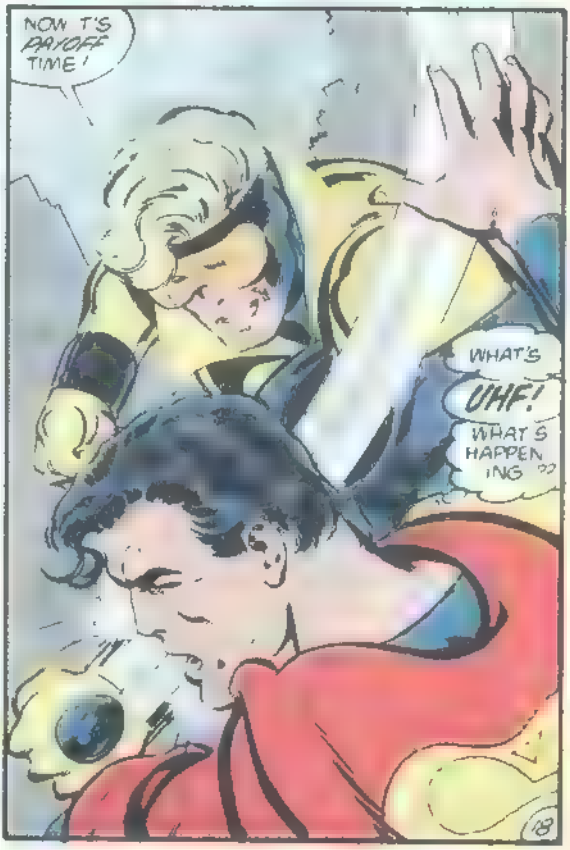

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT MS BERKOWITZ?
I CAME AS QUICKLY AS I COULD
NO. PERMANENT DAMAGE, SUPERMAN I THINK YOU WERE JUST IN THE NICK OF...
SUPERMAN!!
WHOM!
I...FELT THAT!!
BOOSTER MUST'VE BEEN WORKING OUT SINCE OUR LAST GO ROUND

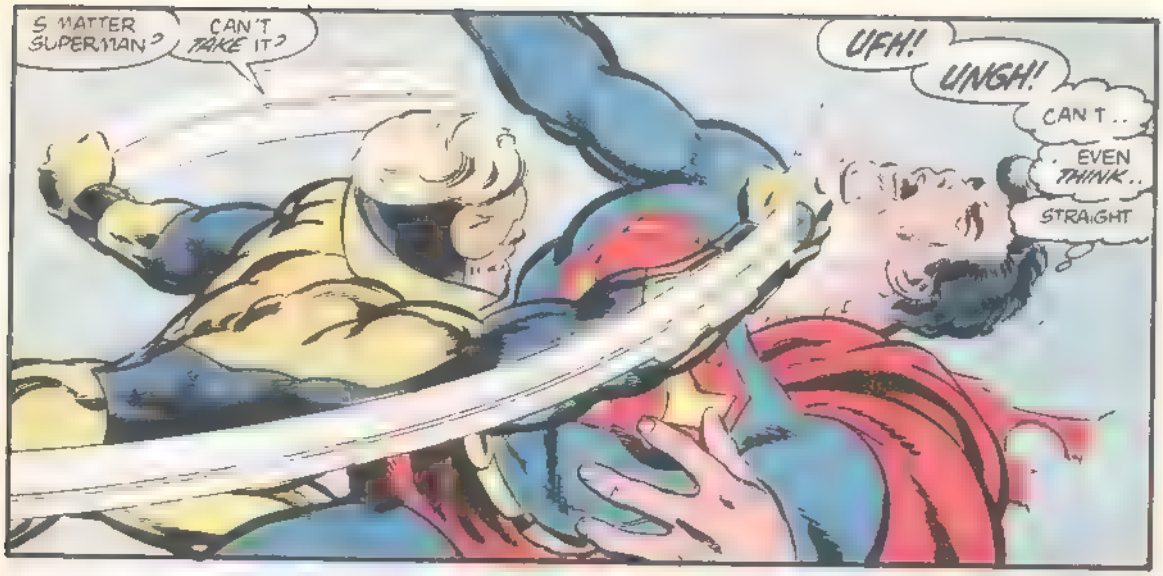
HERE HE COMES AGAIN.
OKAY BOOSTER, THAT WAS PRETTY GOOD..
LET'S TRY ONE WHEN I'M PAYING ATTENTION
NOW..
BEFORE ANYONE REALLY GETS HURT, I THINK WE'LL JUST FINISH THIS!!
THA-A-AT'S BETTER!!

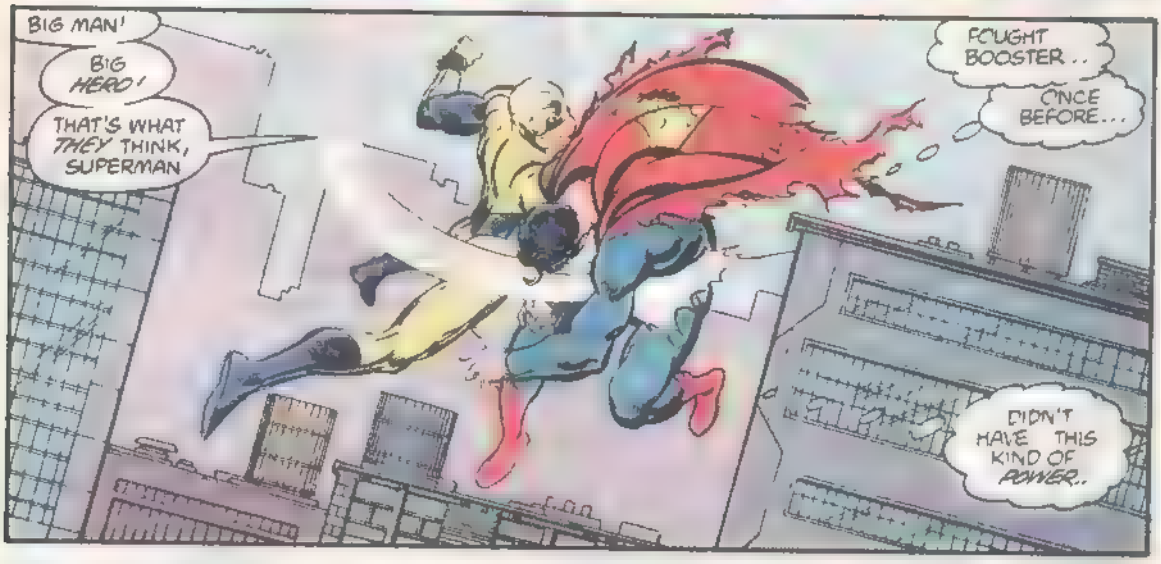

OH WE'LL FINISH IT, ALL RIGHT, SUPERMAN
BUT NOT THE WAY YOU THINK!

UNGH!!

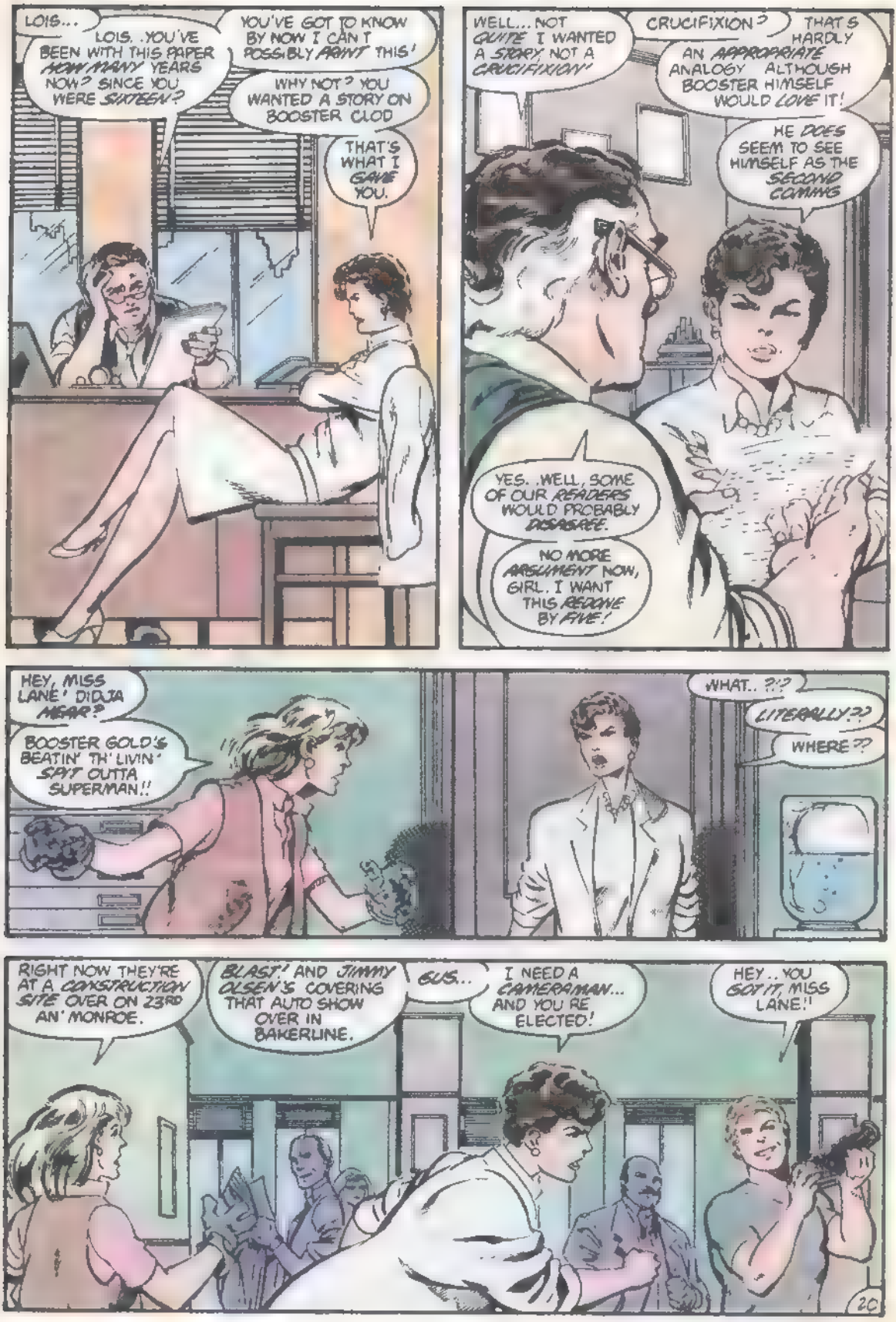

YOU'VE BEEN TOP OF THE HEAP IN THIS TOWN TOO LONG, SUPERMAN.
YOU'VE GOTTEN SOFT


NOW IT'S PAYOFF TIME!
WHAT'S
UHF!
WHAT'S HAPPENING??


S MATTER SUPERMAN?
CAN'T TAKE IT?
UFH!
UNGH!
CAN'T..
EVEN THINK..
STRAIGHT


BIG MAN!
BIG HERO!
THAT'S WHAT THEY THINK, SUPERMAN
FOUGHT BOOSTER..
ONCE BEFORE...
DIDN'T HAVE THIS KIND OF POWER..

WELL, TODAY THEY LEARN THE TRUTH!!
THERE'S ONLY ONE TOP DOG IN METROPOLIS, SUPERMAN..
.. CAN'T
CAN'T .
.. RE.
.. SIST...


LOIS...
LOIS. .YOU'VE BEEN WITH THIS PAPER HOW MANY YEARS NOW? SINCE YOU WERE SIXTEEN?
YOU'VE GOT TO KNOW BY NOW I CAN T POSSIBLY AVOID THIS!
WHY NOT? YOU WANTED A STORY ON BOOSTER CLOD
THAT'S WHAT I GAVE YOU.
WELL... NOT QUITE I WANTED A STORY NOT A CRUCIFIXION!
CRUCIFIXION?
THAT S HARDLY AN APPROPRIATE ANALOGY ALTHOUSH BOOSTER HIMSELF WOULD LOVE IT!
HE DOES SEEM TO SEE HIMSELF AS THE SECOND COMING
YES. .WELL, SOME OF OUR READERS WOULD PROBABLY DISAGREE.
NO MORE ARGUMENT NOW, GIRL. I WANT THIS REDONE BY FIVE!
HEY, MISS LANE! DIDJA HEAR?
BOOSTER GOLD'S BEATIN' TH' LIVIN' SAYT OUTTA SUPERMAN!!
WHAT.. ?!?
LITERALLY?!?
WHERE ??
RIGHT NOW THEY'RE AT A CONSTRUCTION SITE OVER ON 23RD AN' MONROE.
BLAST! AND JIMMY OLSEN'S COVERING THAT AUTO SHOW OVER IN BAKERLINE.
GUS..
I NEED A CAMERAMAN... AND YOU RE ELECTED!
HEY.. YOU GOT IT, MISS LANE!!
20

SKREEEEEL
THERE THEY ARE, GUS!!
LOOK OUT!
LOOK OUT!
LET ME THROUGH!
HEY, LOOK!
IT'S LOIS LANE!
OH, NO!
OH, NO, NO, NO, NO!
HERE HE IS, FOLKS! THE GREAT AND POWERFUL SUPERMAN!
AND YOU'LL NOTICE THAT HE WAS NO MATCH FOR BOOSTER GOLD!
DOESN'T LOOK SO POWERFUL NOW, DOES HE?
YEAH.
AND HE HASN'T EVEN FOUGHT THE REAL BOOSTER GOLD YET!
21
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

GIVE IT UP, BUDDY!
THE LAST THING I NEED IS A CHEAP, TWO-BIT IMPOSTOR INVADING MY TURF!
HEY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
THE ONLY IMPOSTOR I SEE IS YOU!
WHADDAYA THINK, MISS LANE? WHO'S THE REAL McCOY?
I DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA, GUS.
BUT I KNOW THAT SUPERMAN IS IN TROUBLE.
AND IT LOOKS LIKE THINGS ARE GOING TO GET A LOT WORSE!
To be continued... IN BOOSTER GOLD #23!
THEN JOIN US BACK HERE TO MEET THE GHOST OF SUPERMAN IN ACTION #595!

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Aloha Guys:

ACTION COMICS #590 was tremendous. It was good to see the Metal Men again. Do keep up the fantastic work on the new DC Universe.

I do like the idea of the Metal Men being able to unite and become one giant robot Metal Man. It gives them even more power. Just have them learn to work together as a team.

Also, give the Metal Men their own series once more.

As for the future, have Superman work with other characters that we haven't seen in a while. Like the Thorn, Captain Comet, the Catwoman, Ragman, the New Insect Queen, the Black Orchid, The New Doom Patrol and Zatanna, to name a few.

Jason Rivera
419 Seaside Ave., Apt. J
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

To name a few—?! C'mon, Jason, isn't Superman busy enough for you with three titles a month? Don't you believe in the Hawaiian idea of hanging loose??!

Glad to note that the METAL MEN struck your fancy, though, Jas—read on for more...

* * * * *

Dear Mike and Andy:

There was just one thing wrong in ACTION COMICS #590—no letters page! Apart from that, it was very enjoyable to see another group of forgotten heroes make a re-appearance in the new DC Universe. For poor Tin, a brief re-appearance, to be sure, but it seems as if you intend carrying on this story somewhere else—a mini-series, perhaps? What's next? Challengers of the Unknown? Shade? Dolphin? Angel and the Ape?

The evolution of Chemo into the big green Superman was a modernized tip of the hat to the old-style alien and otherwise unlikely menaces that Supes fought many years ago. In contrast, the Metal Men's major strategem was to form themselves into one of comicdom's current fads: a giant, one might almost say, "transforming," robot. There again, I could see that for myself without Superman having to tell me. The Man of Steel has very much become a more intellectual super-hero in recent times, more inclined to think before acting, and this does make for more interesting battles. Not being as powerful as he used to be also helps keep battles at realistic levels. The problem used to be that if you had Superman, what need was there for the rest of the Justice League? (Speaking of which, when is Big Red going to join up with the new version?)

As for those last few panels, I really hope this bodes for some more stories with our metallic heroes and heroines. Tin deserves a better fate than being left out in limbo, and there's that intriguing dark secret of sub-level nine. With hindsight, I can see that one of the functions of ACTION COMICS might be to showcase some of DC's less famous characters, to test the waters for a possible revival. If that's the case, I'm sure you'll receive a lot of support for this particular group. Maybe it's not too much to hope that those I mentioned before—and, perhaps Deadman, as well—might make an appearance here.

Malcolm Bourne
87 Greenfield Gardens
Cricklewood
London NW2 1HU
England

* * * * *

Dear Andrew, John, Dick and Mike:

Thanks for the great issue of ACTION COMICS (#590). It was nice seeing the Metal Men back in action with Supes. How about a Mister Miracle team-up? I can't wait for the ACTION-LEGION crossover, that ought to be great. Thanks again for the great issue!

Eric Rocha
307 E. Smith St.
Woodbridge, NJ 07095

Thanks for the great letter, Eric!! If you saw last issue, you saw the great Mister Miracle team-up! How come you thought it was only "nice" to see the Metal Men back in ACTION—and not great? Are these answers starting to "great" on you like they grate on us?

* * * * *

Dear Action People:

Always nice to see the Metal Men again with all the usual characterizations—Gold's leadership, Mercury's complaining, Iron's strength, Tin's stuttering, Platinum's love for Dr. Magnus and Lead's slowness. (Hey, if Lead's so slow, how was he able to form himself into a shield so fast to block Chemo's eye blasts?)

I'm enjoying John's little ways of letting us know the specifics of Superman's redefined powers and limitations. I had no idea that prolonged darkness would sap Superman's powers or that his body processes 100% of the food he eats. I also enjoyed the Metal Men's "Number 21" a la Transformers. Can't wait to see what Dr. Magnus' problem is this time.

The artwork was up to its usual high standards and, though I haven't mentioned it before, I like the way Superman's hair is being colored these days. It's not always perfectly done every time but it's a darn sight better than the blue hair we've had to endure these long years.

Looking forward to how you're going to clean up the Superboy/Legion problem created with Superman's new origin. Bye now.

Jeff Thompson
PO Box 362
Linn Creek, MO 65052

In defense of poor, old Lead... you try having eye beams headed straight for you, and see how fast you react!

* * * * *

Dear Andy and Mike:

What?! Will Magnus disband the Metal Men? Impossible ... but true? I hope not!

But my overall comment on ACTION COMICS #590 is... excellent! Ever since CRISIS I've wanted to see more of the Metal Men, and I guess I'm gonna get my chance.

I knew Chemo would return eventually, and this was a good way. I really liked it. Now, that he's been destroyed again, where will he turn up next?

John and Dick did a great job on this one, and their rendering of the Metal Men (especially Mercury) was superb. John's portrayal of the Metal Men's separate personalities was great, also.

And now ... I have a theory about the upcoming ACTION COMICS #600. I know that John and George Pérez intend to do the issue together, and with a hint from SUPERMAN I believe that it will be Superman's first extensive encounter with Wonder Woman, right? Signed, a possible new letter hack...

Jon Johnson
64 Indian Hill Ave.
Portland, CT 06480

A possible new "letter hack!" Anybody out there work for a living?

As for ACTION COMICS #600... wait and see! You'll not catch us giving any secrets away! Nope! Not even a little hint! We want to keep you wondering until—darnit! We let one slip! Better shut up before we blow everything! Next thing you know we'll be telling you all that MILLENNIUM is an 8-issue weekly mini-series coming from DC this

summ—I Darnit, Darnit! Darnit! Dick's gonna kill us for letting that one out!! (Or give us a raise!!)

* * * * *

Dear Mr. Byrne:

ACTION COMICS #590 was the best new Superman story yet. I really loved it.

More of the Metal Men, definitely! I'm eagerly awaiting Rex, the Wonder Dog.

Jeffrey C. Wooten
Rt. 2, Box 66
Grifton, NC 28530

Uh, don't hold your breath, Jeff...

* * * * *

Dear John, Dick, Mike and Andy:

So far, the new ACTION COMICS is a success, a big improvement over the two Superman titles it was designed to replace. The old ACTION was definitely out of gas; all energy, innovation, and interest completely drained in both the art and scripting. DC COMICS PRESENTS was similarly depleted, stretching believability and consistency beyond all reasonable limits. The new ACTION has a simple approach which is similar to the approaches of those two books; but it often has clever plot twists and snappy dialogue. And John and Dick's art is sparkling and eye-catching, reason enough to buy the book.

ACTION #590 was another example of this uncomplicated, yet pleasing, series ... featuring a nifty team-up with the great Metal Men. "Better Dying Through Chemistry" was an enjoyable story, redeemed immediately by the presence of the robot wonders. I love the Metal Men, and feel that they have been neglected for too long; it's about time that they reappear in the midst of the latest and most successful DC renovation. The Metal Men have always been bizarre and intriguing, a group of heroes with a unique angle and distinct personalities. Their initial '60's appearances were fine; very imaginative and original tales which established an entirely new super-hero concept. I am particularly fond of the Metal Men's rebirth in the mid-'70's, however, in a new series featuring fabulous work by Steve Gerber, Gerry Conway, Walt Simonson and Joe Staton. That comic was wonderful and underrated, a great unknown classic of the 1970 s. With its landmark art and writing, it deserves a second look, as do the characters themselves. Is there any chance that the '70's METAL MEN comics could be reprinted, in a Baxter format series? It would be a good prelude to the new series you hinted at, and would stir up interest in the robot heroes.

I liked seeing the Metal Men again. I felt that the fight scenes were well choreographed, and I love John and Dick's art. I'm anxious to see what you guys do with Superboy next issue.

Robert T. Jeschonek
129 Hostetler Road
Johnstown, PA 15904

* * * * *

Dear Andrew, John, Mike and Dick:

What could be better than ACTION #589? Why, ACTION #590 of course. To all an A+!! Teaming Superman with the Metal Men might initially sound bizarre, but it turned out to be one of the finest couplings in the new ACTION series.

First off, I'd be privileged and honored to commend John Byrne for what he's done with the new Superman. (Many bravos to Mr. Wolfman and Mr. Ordway as well.) Chemo was a rather weak villain for these seven heroes to be fighting. But the fun of the story was the interaction between the Metal Men. I never read the Metal Men during their sixties hey-day but I definitely would like to see them more often now. They were fun but not cutesy; funny but not juvenile.

Hey, someone tell Doc Magnus to lighten up! Boy, has he got a bug stuck somewhere! How can he say he's not going to put Tin back together? Tin is one heck of a nice guy. If the Doctor is going to hold it against the Metal Men that they rescued part of their team (after being attacked on home turf) not to mention countless civilian lives, then he should get his priorities in order.

How about Superman and Aquaman together again? Two old buddies battling for truth, justice, and the soggy American sea lanes together. Plus I'd like to see what costume Aquaman would wear ... new or old?

Paul Gallagher
166 Grant Avenue
Nutley, NJ 07110

P.S. Don't keep us in suspense over the fate of Tin, the rest of the Metal Men, Doc "Scrooge," and sub-level 9!!

Okay, okay—first let us tell you that the METAL MEN's appearance in ACTION #590 sparked an unprecedented response (as if you couldn't tell from this letters page) and we can hardly sit here and ignore it! Fear not, the magnificent METAL MEN will be back in the pages of ACTION COMICS within the next few months (either issue #597 or #598) ... and shortly thereafter, DC hopes to unveil the brand, spanking, new—retooled for the eighties—shining, gleaming, can't keep them from teaming—METAL MEN Mini-Series!! Find out the fate of Tin—the secret of Level-Nine—and who'll be doing the blasted series in early 1988! (1988 already? Sheesh, time sure flies when you're doing letters pages!)

* * * * *

Dear John:

Comments about ACTION #590: "Better Dying Through Chemistry" was the best title I've seen in a long time. It was great seeing the Metal Men and I'm especially grateful that you did not portray them as petty and idiotic. If it's possible for robots to "grow," you've accomplished exactly that. There was always too much bickering and ineptness before. These guys (apologies to Platinum) have been together a long time and it's nice to see they've developed effective team-work. The cliffhanger was good, too—but Doc Magnus really has a bug in his behind. I wonder about the real reason he won't rebuild Tin.

No letter would be complete without a list of "I'd like to see's," so here goes:

1) More Lana Lang in all three books. She knows Clark's secret. He should be confiding in her more often.

2) The relationship between Lana and Lois. You really have a golden opportunity with this blank slate.

3) A team-up with the Batman. MAN OF STEEL #3 was a terrific exposition of their differences. Can you top it?

4) A team-up with Wonder Woman. Supey's had his eye on her since LEGENDS. Let's see where this one goes!

Pass my compliments to Dick Giordano. He's always been one of my favorite artists. I'm sorry his editorial chores have taken up his time, but I'm glad he's inking your pencils. Your styles complement each other very well.

Just think. Two of my favorite artists and (if my sources are correct) they're both so close that I'm only a local call away!! (Hint, hint)

Anyway, that's it for now. Take care of your brain and your pencilling hand, John, and I'll talk to you soon.

Bob Pivarnik
150 Prospect Drive
Stratford, CT 06497

Nice try with the phone call bit, Bob!! But if John spent all his time calling his readers, he'd never get any work done. And then how would he be able to bring you ACTION COMIC's exciting...

NEXT ISSUE: How can SUPERMAN stop the nefarious Silver Banshee (New villainess! New villainess!) if she's already killed him? Hmmm ... let's see ... Wait! We know! Join us next issue for "The Ghost of Superman!"—guest-starring—ewwww, you don't think we're going to go and ruin it for you now, do you? See you all in thirty big ones (and two small ones)!

MILLENNIUM IS COMING